Multicultural Diversity Calendar 2027

Diversity
Inclusion
New Moons
Full Moons
United Nations Days



Bahá'í
Buddhist
Christian
Hindu
Indigenous
Islam
Jain
Jewish
Shinto
Sikh
Wicca
Zoroastrian



Why Kindness Matters

♥ What if one simple act of kindness could inspire thousands more?

♥ Kindness knows no borders. It transcends cultures, languages, religions, and generations. And sometimes, the smallest gesture can make the biggest difference.

♥ Introducing the 2027 Multicultural Calendar - 'Be Kind', a beautiful collection of 12 illustrated stories celebrating the extraordinary power of everyday kindness.

♥ Imagine a world where kindness isn't reserved for special occasions.

♥ Where workplaces celebrate cultural understanding. Where children grow up seeing compassion in action. Where neighbours look out for one another. And where differences bring us together rather than divide us. That's the world we hope to inspire.

♥ The 'Be Kind' Multicultural Calendar is designed to bring positive messages into homes, workplaces, classrooms, and communities throughout the year.

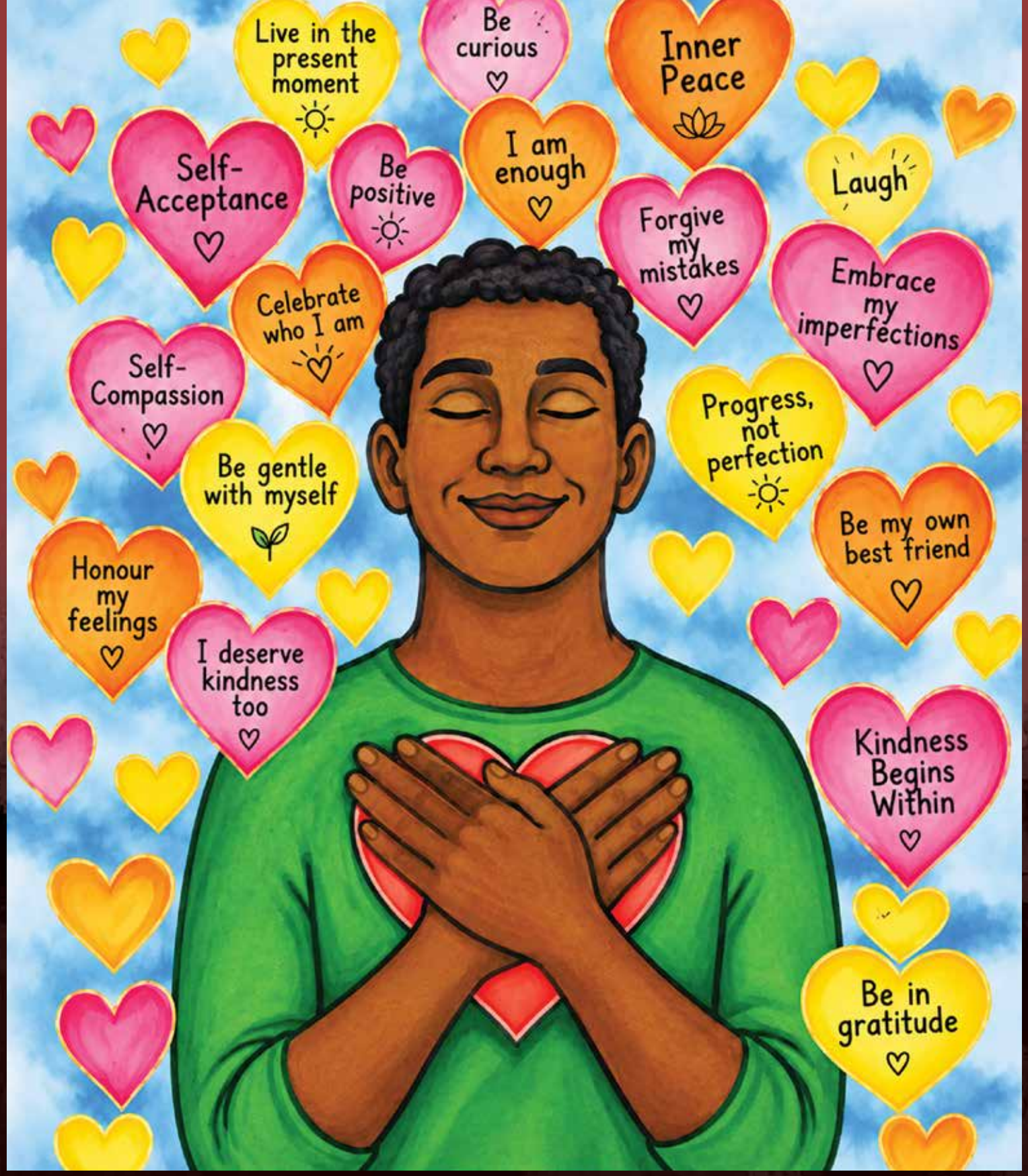


For 30 years, Rebuilding Together - Nashville has united volunteers to repair homes and helping families remain safely in the neighbourhoods they love. Beyond restoring houses, their acts of kindness restore dignity, peace of mind, and hope for a better future.

January 2027

Jan-Feb Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony Indigenous The Iroquois Midwinter Ceremony lasts for 8 days and each day is dedicated to an event, i.e. Tobacco Invocation. Days vary according to community.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender History Month UK was initiated by Schools OUT in Britain in February 2005. This is an opportunity for all to learn more about the lives and achievements of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the United Kingdom
Polish Heritage Month Canada is observed throughout May—a time to celebrate the enduring contributions of Polish communities to the country's cultural and social landscape. The first documented Polish immigrants arrived in 1752, with many early families settling in Ontario, where the community continued to grow and shape the province's cultural foundation. Today, over 1.2 million Canadians proudly trace their heritage to Poland.

Jan 1 **New Year's Day** International
Jan 1 **St. Basil's Day** Greece The Greeks call New Year, St. Basil's Day. Traditionally, gifts are exchanged.
Jan 1 **Gantan-Sai** Japan, Shinto Gantan-sai, also referred to as Shogatu, is the Shinto New Year holiday. The faithful visit shrines, often at midnight, praying for renewal of heart, health, and prosperity. During the seven-day holiday, people wear their best clothing and visit the homes of friends and family to express their wishes for the coming year.
Jan 2 **Berchtold's Day** Switzerland This day honours Duke Berchtold V, who founded Bern, the capital of Switzerland. He promised to name the city after the first animal he killed on a hunt. The bear (bern in German) then provided the city's name.
Jan 5 **Guru Gobind Singh's Birthday** Sikh He was the 10th and last living Guru of the Sikh faith. He founded the 'Khalsa' brotherhood where the initiated adopted the five 'K's: Kangha (wooden comb), Kara (steel bracelets), Kirpan (sword), Kaccha (pair of shorts), and Kesh (long hair).
Jan 6 **Three Kings' Day** Christian In South America, Latin America and parts of Europe, the end of the Christmas season is a traditional time for gift giving.
Jan 6 **Epiphany** Christian In the Western church, this day celebrates the journey of the three Wise Men to Bethlehem offer gifts to the infant Jesus. In the Eastern Church it is associated with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. On this day as well, the Armenians celebrate Christmas.
Jan 7 **Christmas** Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox On this day, some Eastern churches celebrate the birth of Jesus according to the Julian calendar, which is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian or Western calendar.



Unconditional kindness to oneself transforms self-criticism into self-acceptance, helping us recognize our strengths and embrace who we truly are. We gain the confidence to make healthier choices and live with greater peace and purpose.

February 2027

Black History Month **Canada** In December of 1995, the Parliament of Canada recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first African Canadian woman elected to Parliament, Jean Augustine. The presence of peoples of African descent in Canada dates back farther than Samuel de Champlain's first voyage down the St. Lawrence River.

Black History Month **USA** Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, is greatly owed to Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who first launched "Negro History Week" in 1926. Woodson chose February because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly impacted the American black population. Abraham Lincoln (president of the United States who freed slaves during the Civil War), and Frederick Douglass (who worked to end slavery) have birthdays in February. The purpose of this month is to recognize the contributions of Black Americans and develop a better understanding of the Black experience.

Jan-Feb Hopi Holy Cycle **Indigenous** Buffalo dances are performed in Hopi reserves. Days may vary according to community.

Feb 1 **Abolition of Slavery** **Mauritius** The struggle for freedom of the slaves in Mauritius during the Dutch period between 1638 and 1710 is remembered and honored.

Feb 2 **Imbolg** **Wicca** 'Imbolg' comes from an archaic Gaelic expression 'in the belly', which signaled the first stirrings of life within the womb of mother earth. Corn dolls are burned as offerings to the sun to hasten his return.

Feb 4 **Imamat Day** **Islam Ismaili** Imamat Day is celebrated every year by Ismailis on the day that the Imamat or religious leader transferred from the past Imam to the present Aga Khan.

Feb 6 **Waitangi Day** **New Zealand** This day commemorates the signing of a treaty at Waitangi on 6th February 1840 by a group of Maori chiefs and the British Government. It honours the rights of the British Crown and also the rights of the Maori people, which are now in the process of being reclaimed.

Feb 6 **Chinese / Lunar New Year** **Buddhist - China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam** The year of the Goat. This is the year 4723 in the Chinese Lunar calendar and the most important holiday. It is a three-day holiday in China and Hong Kong. The Chinese clean and decorate their homes with the 5 lucky signs of happiness; new clothes are worn and even the poorest buy new shoes, for it is considered bad luck to step down on the ground into old shoes. **Vietnamese** call it the **'Tet' Festival**.

Feb 6 **Seollal** **Korea** The Korean New Year lasts three days. During this time, many Koreans visit family, perform ancestral rites, eat traditional food, and play folk games. Additionally, children often receive money from their elders.

Feb 7 **Losar (New Year)** **Tibet, Buddhist** The Tibetan New Year is called Losar and is celebrated for three days by visiting, feasting and the relaxation the monastic discipline.

Feb 8 **Boy Scout Day** **Canada, USA** William Boyce, a Chicago publisher, founded the Boy Scouts of American on Feb 10, 1910. The purpose was to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in Scoutcraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues.



Rescue dogs often face abandonment, neglect, or displacement, leaving them without the love and security they deserve. Through kindness, rescuing these vulnerable animals gives them a second chance at life and finding a loving home.

March 2027

Women's History Month USA, UK National Women's History Month began as a single week and as a local event. In 1978, Sonoma County, California, sponsored a women's history week to promote the teaching of women's history. The week of March 8th was selected to include 'International Women's Day.' This day is rooted in such ideas and events as a woman's right to vote and a woman's right to work, women's strikes for bread, women's strikes for peace at the end of World War I, and the U.N. Charter declaration of gender equality at the end of World War II. This day is an occasion to review how far women have come in their struggle for equality, peace and development. In 1981, Congress passed a resolution making the week a national celebration, and in 1987 expanded it to the full month of March. In **Canada**, Women's History month is celebrated in October.

Mar 1 **St. David's Day Wales** He is the patron saint of Wales and died on this day.

Mar 3 **Hinamatsuri Japan** Hinamatsuri, or Doll's Day/Girls' Day, is a Japanese festival celebrated annually on March 3rd to pray for the happiness, health, and prosperity of young girls

Mar 6 **Shivratri Hindu** On Shiva's night, the Hindu deity Lord Shiva performed the Tandav, the cosmic dance of creation and destruction. A 24-hour fast is kept and devotees make pilgrimages to major shrines for worship.

Mar 6 **Laylat al-Qadr Islam** Night of Power, commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to Prophet Muhammad in 610 CE. It begins the previous evening.

Mar 7 **Mothering Sunday UK, Ireland** Mothering Sunday is the celebration of motherhood in UK, and takes place on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Traditionally children bring gifts of flowers and chocolates to their mothers. It originated with the Victorian practice of allowing servants to return home to visit their mothers on this day.

Mar 10 **Eid-ul-Fitr Islam** This marks the end of the Ramadan fast and is celebrated for 3 days. Date of observance may vary according to sighting of the new moon. Dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates, which are a day later.

Mar 12 **Girl Scout Day Canada, USA** Juliette 'Daisy' Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

Mar 15 **Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** It is the beginning of the forty-day fast when Christians imitate Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness before his crucifixion.

Mar 17 **St. Patrick's Day N. Ireland, Ireland** The death anniversary of their patron saint. He used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Christian idea of the Holy Trinity, thus the idea of wearing a shamrock.

Mar 19 **St. Joseph's Day Christian** St. Joseph's Day is celebrated throughout most of Italy and by the Italian communities in North America. He was the foster father of Jesus and is the universal patron of the Catholic Church. According to legend, when a severe drought struck western Sicily in the Middle Ages, the people of that area prayed to St. Joseph, asking him to intercede for them and send rain. Their prayer was granted and since then they honour St. Joseph by helping the needy in their community.



Sikhs serving Langar (free food in the name of service or Seva for humanity) for Bihar, India, flood victims.

April 2027

Multicultural Communications Month **International** Multicultural communications may seem difficult at first - differences in languages, backgrounds, customs and the like all seem a challenge. By learning more about our different cultures, it becomes easier to interact. This month has been dedicated to further this cause.

Sikh Heritage Month **Canada** Canadians across the country mark the beginning of Sikh Heritage Month—an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the meaningful contributions of Sikh communities, past and present, in shaping Canada. Since the arrival of the first Sikh immigrants in the late 19th century, Sikh Canadians have strengthened the country through achievements across society and industry. The Sikh values of equality, selflessness, openness, and compassion are central to Sikhism - and later this month, these principles will be further celebrated and highlighted during Vaisakhi (Vaisakhi).

Arab American Heritage Month **USA** On March 31, 2023, the President of United States declared April as Arab American Heritage Month to learn more about the history, culture, and achievements of Arab Americans and observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.

Apr 1 **Farvardin** **Iran** It is the 13th day after Nowruz or New Year. The number 13 is considered an unlucky number for the Persians, and therefore everyone leaves home for the day.

Apr 4 **Midori No Hi** **Japan** This day is also known as Greenery Day to appreciate nature.

Apr 5 **Annunciation** **Christian** Annuciation commemorates the day Jesus's mother, Mary was visited by an angel to inform her that she was blessed and chosen to be the mother of Christ.

Apr 5 **Ch'ing Ming Festival** **China, Taiwan** A national holiday when family graves are visited to ask for the blessings of the departed spirits.

Apr 6 **Organization of The Church** **Christian - Mormon** The Church for Latter-day Saints was founded on the sixth of April 1830 at Fayette, New York.

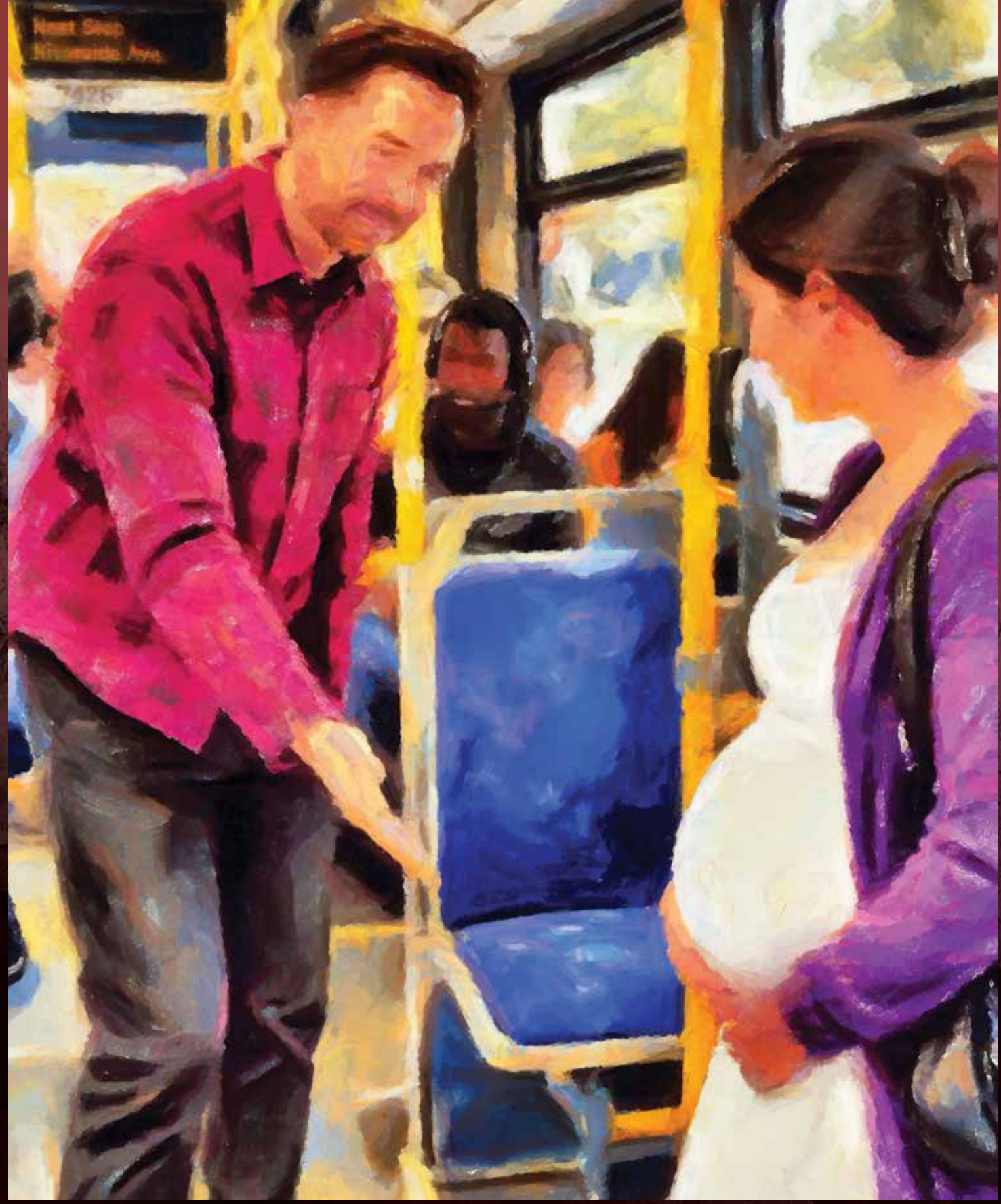
Apr 6 **Chakri Day** **Thailand** A national holiday to honour King Rama I, who founded the Chakri Dynasty in 1782 and the founder of Bangkok as the capital of Thailand.

Apr 7 **Ugadi** **India, Mauritius, Nepal** Ugadi marks the beginning of the new Hindu lunar calendar.Celebrated mainly in the southern states of India, people awake before the break of day, bathe and decorate the entrance of their homes with mango leaves. They eat bitter Neem leaves with sweet jaggery to signify the bitter and sweet of life.

Apr 11 **Juan Santamaria Day** **Costa Rica** Parades, civic programs and fireworks occur throughout the country to honor the nation's hero, Juan Santamaria, an 18 year old drummer who volunteered to burn down a building, where William Walker and the invading Filibusters were gathered, confirming the country's sovereignty.

Apr 14 **Baisakhi** **Bangladesh - Sikh, Hindu** The first day of the solar year, this is an agricultural festival celebrating the harvest, especially in North India. Tamils and Sri Lankans celebrate their New Year on this day. In Kerala, South India this day is called Vishu. Especially important to the Sikhs, it marks this day in 1699, when the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, established the order of 'Khalsa'. The festival is a mixture of feasting, dancing and worship.

Apr 14 **Songkran/New Year** **Cambodia, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand** In southeast Asia, Songkran is recognized as the New Year for Buddhists. For Thais, it is a three-day religious festival in which homes are routinely cleaned, and water is sprinkled on monks paying visits and on statues of Buddha.



Public Transport Kindness is giving up your seat to a pregnant mother, disabled travellers or people with special needs.

May 2027

Asian Heritage Month **Canada** The Senate of Canada passed a motion in December 2001, designating May as Asian Heritage month. Canadians take part in festivities commemorating the legacy of Asian Canadians and their many contributions which have helped Canada become the multicultural and diverse nation it is today.

Asian Pacific Heritage Month **USA** Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have strengthened the US as a nation. Many ethnic groups worked tirelessly to build a national railroad, paving the way for western expansion. The first Asian/Pacific Heritage Week was celebrated in 1979, in response to little recognition of this population during the 1976 bicentennial. By 1990, the celebration was one month long and then made official in 1992.

Jewish Heritage Month **Jewish** May is declared Jewish Heritage Month in Canada and USA. It provides an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the incredible contributions that Jewish people have made to the country and in communities across North America.

National Older Peoples Month **USA** It was established by presidential proclamation in 1963. The entire nation is encouraged to pay tribute in some way to older persons in their communities. It is celebrated across the country through ceremonies and events.

May Hopi Kachina Dances **Indigeous**. During late spring and early summer, long lines of Kachina Dancers, representing many spirit-powers, perform dances in Hopi pueblos. Dates of observance vary according to community.

May 1 **Beltane** **Wicca** Greets the summer. It takes its name from the Celtic God Bel who unites with the Earth Goddess on this day. It was a midsummer fertility festival in Celtic paganism. Maypole dances are presently held.

May 1 **Vappu Day** **Finland** This day is Finland's National Holiday, celebrates Spring and begins on April 30th.

May 1 **Matsu Festival** **China, Taiwan** Matsu saved her brother from drowning and at the age of 28 and ascended into heaven. She earned the title of Goddess of the Sea and is the patron of fishermen. There are rites and processions at Matsu temples.

May 1 **Santa Cruzan Day** **Philippines** Filipinos consider this the first day of spring. It commemorates the corresponding day in the 4th century A.D. when St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine of Rome found the holy cross on which Jesus was crucified.

May 2 **Pasha/Easter** **Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Most Christians welcome Easter Sunday with a sunrise service.

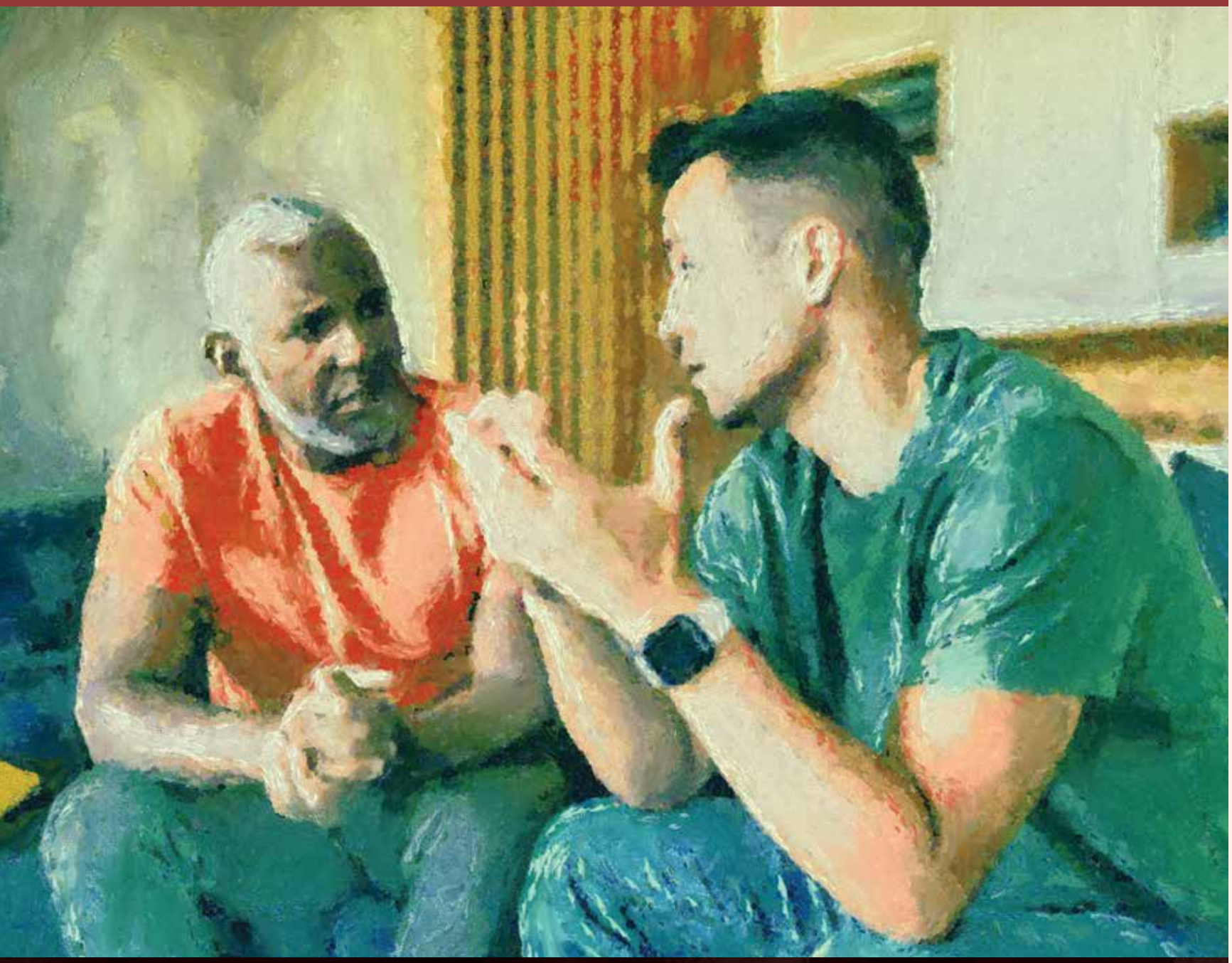
May 3 **Easter Monday** **Christian - Coptic & Eastern Orthodox** Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death.

May 4 **Kodomo No Hi** **Japan** Childrens' Day promotes family unity in Japan celebrating the relationship of parents with their sons and daughters.

May 4 **Yom HaShoah** **Israel, Jewish** Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the death of 6 million Jews by the Nazi regime.

May 5 **Cinco De Mayo** **Mexico** It marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the 'Batalla de Puebla' in 1862. Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, it came to represent a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. It is celebrated on a much larger scale in the United States than it is in Mexico. People of Mexican descent (Chicanos) in the United States celebrate this significant day by having parades, mariachi music, folkloric dancing and other festive activities.

May 6 **Ascension** **Christian** This day commemorates the ascension of Jesus into Heaven.



Active listening is an act of kindness that gives children and teens the freedom to express their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment. It builds trust, strengthen relationships and helps them feel truly heard and valued.

June 2027

National Indigenous History Month **Canada** June is National Indigenous History Month as declared by the Canadian Parliament in 2009. It is a fitting tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. Indigenous History Month is an opportunity not only to recognize the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month **Canada, USA, Australia** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Pride Events are celebrated by communities across Canada and United States on different dates during June through to early August. There is a Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia annually in February/March. During this time people find that they are not alone and can take pride in their community's history. The most significant date in LGBT history occurring in June, was the 3-day protest in 1969 at the Stonewall Inn in New York City, an event that marked the first time the gay community joined together to fight for its rights, thereby gaining national attention. Anniversary of this event was one of the reasons June was chosen as the nationally proclaimed month to celebrate LGBT Pride.
National Caribbean American Heritage Month **USA** Proclaimed in May 2011 by the US President, it commemorates a time to celebrate the history and culture of Caribbean Americans.

Jun 1 **Gawai Dayak** **Malaysia** This day marks the traditional rice harvest. Rituals are performed to express thanks to the spirits of the paddy with requests for a better harvest during the next planting season. It is an open house for friends and relatives with celebrations usually lasting three days.

Jun 4 **Yom Yerushalayim** **Israel** This day marks the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem.

Jun 5 **Red Earth Native American Fair** **Indigenous, USA** Cultural Festival takes place in Oklahoma City for 3 days. Over 150 Native tribes from U.S. and Canada gather in Downtown Oklahoma City to share and participate in their rich and diverse heritage through highest quality original art, drum and dance juried competitions.

Jun 6 **1st Muharram - Islamic New Year** **Islam** Islamic New Year, 1449 AH. The first of Muharram marks the first day of the first month (Muharram) of the Islamic year. Muharam lasts for 29-30 days depending on the moon sighting. It begins at sundown the previous day. The dates vary by a day depending on whether the Saudi Arabia or the North American Calendar is being observed. This calendar follows the North American dates which is a day later.

Jun 7 **Dragon Boat Festival** **China, Hong Kong** This day honours the patriot poet Chu Yuan who drowned himself in the Milo River, south of China in protest of the political injustice in 277 B.C. The villagers raced to the river and jumped into dragon boats but never found him. As they searched, they beat drums to scare off fish and dragons that might attack his mortal remains. It is a holiday celebrated by boat races in the shape of dragons.

Jun 11-12 **Shavuot** **Jewish** Begins previous sundown at 6pm. Called the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost which means 50 and therefore celebrated on the 50th day at the end of Passover. Shavuot celebrates the time when the Ten Commandments were given to Moses on Mount Sinai. This feast lasts 2 days.

Jun 12 **Trooping The Colour** **UK, England** The official birthday of the King is marked each year by a colourful and historic military parade and march-past, known as Trooping the Colour. It takes place in June on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall, England.



Kindness is stopping to change a flat tire of a family's stranded car.

July 2027

July-August Sun Dance Ritual **Indigenous** For many tribes of the Plains Indians, the Sun Dance was a major communal religious ceremony. Generally held in early summer, the four-day dance ceremony involves sacrifice and supplication to insure harmony between all living beings. Iroquois in late spring; Cree, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Sioux and other Plains Peoples in summer.

July-August Green Corn Ceremony **Indigenous. USA** Performed by some Oklahoma tribes as a time of renewal. The ceremony involves participation in sweatlodge ceremonies, dances, offerings and fasting.

Jul 1 **Canada Day** **Canada** On July 1, 1867, the British North America Act created the Canadian federal government. The BNA proclaimed 'one Dominion under the name of Canada,' hence the original title of the holiday, 'Dominion Day.' Dominion Day was officially renamed 'Canada Day' by an act of Parliament on October 27, 1982.

Jul 1 **HKSAR Establishment Day** **Hong Kong** Hong Kong was a British colony ruled by a British Governor until it was reunited with China as a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China on 1 July, 1997.

Jul 3 **NAIDOC** **Australia** NAIDOC stands for "National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee". A week-long celebration around Australia during the first week in July to focus on the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Jul 4 **Independence Day** **USA** In 1776, the 13 Colonies signed the declaration of Independence proclaiming their separation from England and formed the United States of America. It is celebrated with picnics, fireworks, parades and outdoor activities.

Jul 6 **Dalai Lama's Birthday** **Tibet Buddhist** His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people. Born to a peasant family in northeastern Tibet, he was recognized as the 14th Dalai Lama (Mongolian for 'Ocean of Wisdom'). In Tibetan Buddhism, the Dalai Lama is believed to be an incarnation of Avalokitesvara, the Buddha of Compassion.



Jumbo supermarkets in the Netherlands introduced ìchat checkouts, where customers can slow down and enjoy friendly conversations.This thoughtful act of kindness helps combat loneliness, especially among seniors, proving that a simple conversation can brighten someone's day.

August 2027

August Native Wild Rice Harvest Indigenous Northern Cree, Ojibwa, Algonkians. Celebrates last full moon in August.

August Hopi Snake Dance Indigenous This dance requires two weeks of ritual preparation and snakes are gathered and kept watch over by children. The dancers then take an emetic and dance with the snakes in their mouths, with an Antelope priest in attendance. After the dance, the snakes are released to carry their prayers.

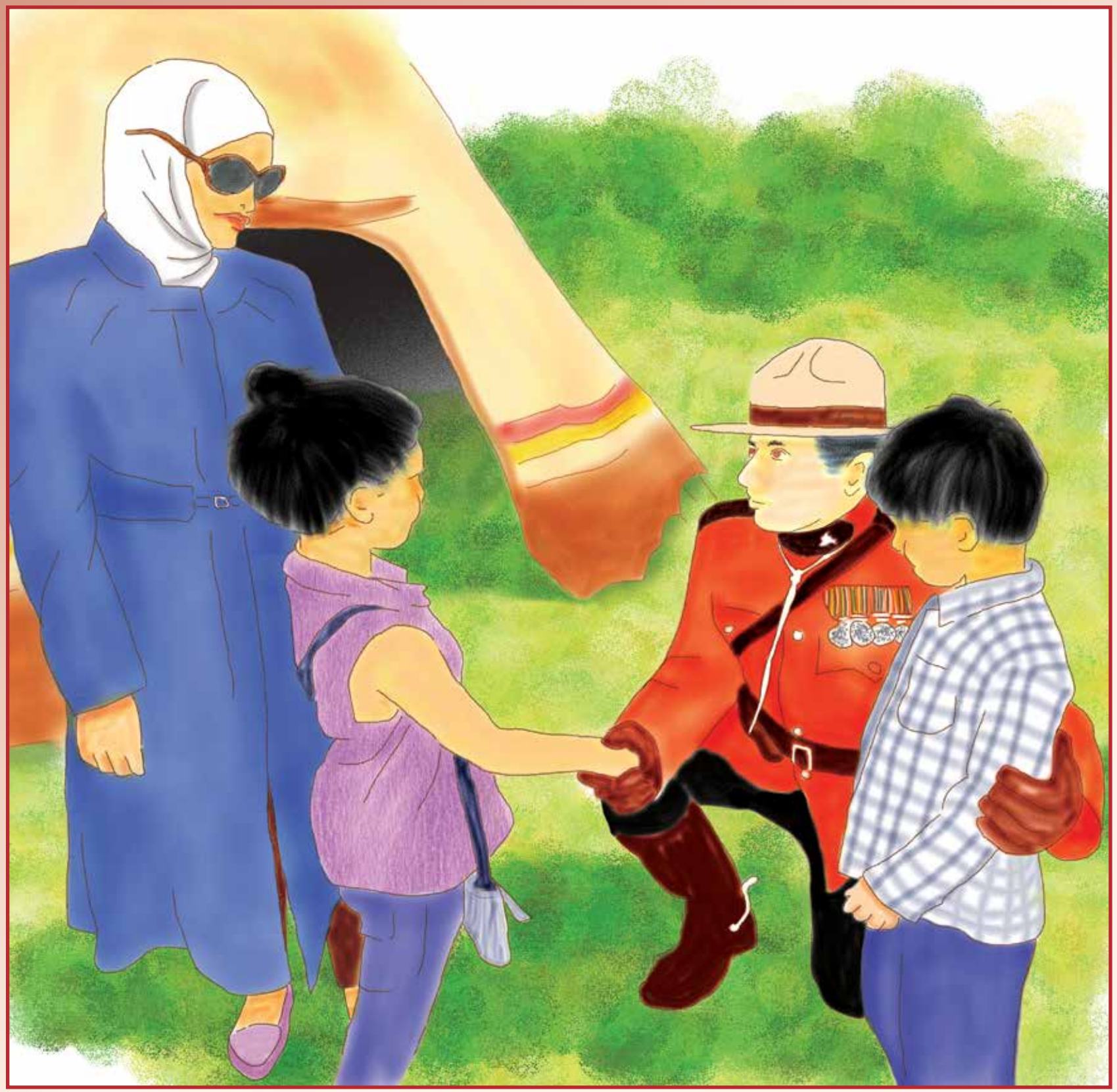
Aug 1 **Lugnasad** Wicca Its name is taken from the Celtic God Lugh, or Samildanach, which means 'he of many gifts'. It celebrates the ancient festival of the first harvesting of grain in August.

Aug 2 **Ilinden** Macedonia Commorates the Macedonians revolt against the Ottoman army on August 2, 1903, on Ilinden, or St. Elijah's Day.

Aug 2 **Lady of the Angels Day** Costa Rica It is the feast day of Virgen de los Angeles, the patron saint of Costa Rica. According to tradition, a peasant girl found a small stone statuette of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus on August 2, 1635. She tried to take it home, but the statuette miraculously reappeared on the spot where it had been found. Then townspeople decided to built a shrine around it.

Aug 2 **Int'l Youth Day** UN A day to increase awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, which calls for action in 10 areas: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and full and effective participation of youths 15-24 years old in society.

Aug 6 **Hiroshima Day** Japan, Canada, USA This solemn day commemorates the day that United States dropped the first atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan in 1945. People from different backgrounds unite on this day to declare their commitment to never letting another nuclear bomb be used against humans again.



Canadians opened their hearts and homes to Syrian refugees. Offering shelter, support, and hope to families seeking a new beginning. Through generosity and compassion, ordinary citizens transformed strangers into neighbours, demonstrating the true spirit of kindness and humanity.

September 2027

National Hispanic Heritage Month **USA** Initiated in 1968 as 'National Hispanic Heritage Week' but was established in 1988 by the U.S. Congress, and includes the days between September 15 through October 15. Hispanic Heritage Month begins on September 15 because this day marks the anniversary of independence for five Hispanic countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico achieved independence on September 16, and Chile on September 18. Latinos from all across the nation take a moment to reflect upon their history, customs and culture, and the contributions their people have made to the U.S.

September Sunrise Dance **Indigenous, Apache, USA** This is an ancient rite of passage for 14-year old girls and lasts four days. After a girl's first menstruation, the girl is massaged and prayed for by an elder female relative. Then, the girl's family decides which ceremony will be sponsored, which medicine man to choose, and whom to ask to be her godparents and co-sponsors of the ceremony.

Sep 4 **Ganesh Chaturthi** **Hindu** It is in honour of one of Hindu's major deity, Ganesh, the elephant-headed god. He is known as the 'remover of all obstacles' and is invoked at the beginning of all new undertakings.

Sep 5 **Samvatsari** **Jain** This day is dedicated to introspection, confession and penance, especially for the Shvetambara sect.

Sep 5 **Dashalakshani-Parva** **Jain** Celebrated by the Digambara sect and lasts ten days, each day dedicated to a virtue: humility, honesty, purity, forgiveness, truthfulness, selfrestraint, asceticism, study, celibacy and detachment.

Sep 6 **Labour Day** **Canada** National Holiday to honour working people's contribution of labour. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.

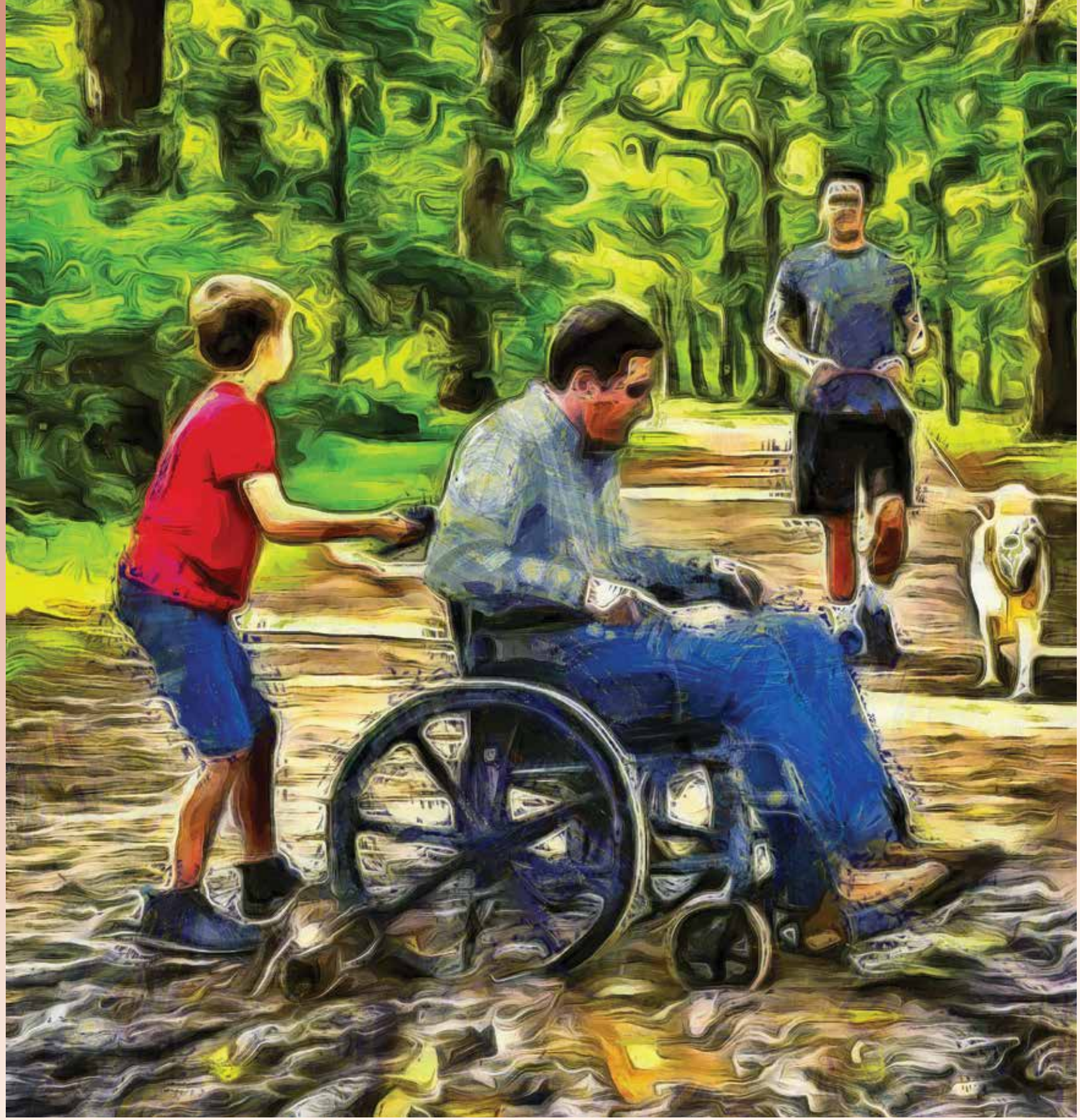
Sep 6 **Labour Day** **USA** On June 29, 1894, the U.S. Congress voted Labour Day as a National Holiday to honour working people's contribution of labour. The day is celebrated with parades and speeches.

Sep 11 **Day Of Remembrance** **USA** The effects of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in 2001 impacted Americans and most other nations and has brought us to focus on the devastation terrorism has caused in the world.

Sep 12 **Meskerem (New Year)** **Ethiopia** Coptic Orthodox Christians are found in all of Africa. They include Egypt, Libya, Sudan and Ethiopia. During the time of Pharoahs 4,000 years ago, the appearance of Soothis (Dog Star) marked the signal that the Nile River would rise, flooding the fertile plains so that planting could begin. The end of the rainy season became known as the New Year.

Sep 12 **Onam** **India** Onam is a Hindu festival celebrated by the people of Kerala in India. Lasting for four to ten days, it is a harvest festival commemorating the homecoming of the legendary Emperor Mahabali from Patala (the underworld) who visits every Malayali home and during this time.

Sep 12 - 16 **Gahambar Paitishahem** **Zoroastrian** This day celebrates the creation of earth.



Kindness in the park as passersby come together to help a man in a wheelchair. Strangers kindly helped a man whose wheelchair got stuck in the park.

October 2027

Disability Employment Awareness Month **USA** In 1945, in an effort to assist disabled veterans, Congress designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week. In the 1970s, a historic shift in disability public policy occurred. For the first time, the exclusion of people with disabilities was viewed as discrimination. The efforts of disability activists led to significant changes in laws, such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation of a full month to recognize the potential of America's millions of working-age people with disabilities.

Women's History Month **Canada** Established in 1992 by the Government of Canada, this special month provides an opportunity to learn more about women's historic accomplishments and their contributions to Canadian society.

Black History Month **UK** In Britain, Black History Month was first celebrated in October 1987 as part of African Jubilee Year. The decision to make this an annual event each October was endorsed by the Association of London Authorities. It has since grown to recognise and embrace the contributions and traditions of other black communities.

Latin American Heritage Month **Canada** Proclaimed by the Parliament of Canada on June 21, 2018, this month is an opportunity for Canadians to recognize the valuable contribution of members of the Latin American community to this country's social, economic, political and cultural fabric.

Oct 2 - 3 Rosh Hashana **Jewish** Begins the previous sundown at 6 pm and is observed for two days with prayers and religious services. Literally 'Head of the Year' marks the first and second days of the Jewish New Year, and the anniversary of the creation of the world. It ends 10 days later with Yom Kippur.

Oct 2 **Mehragan** **Iran, Zoroastrian** The word 'Mehr' in Persian means kindness, love and friendship. Mehregan is celebrated by Zoroastian and Persian (Iranian) people and was based on the concept that all of the farmers would bring their harvest in the middle of the town square and split it up evenly.

Oct 2 **Gandhi's Birthday** **India** Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948) is known as Father of the Nation in India, adopted 'non-violence' in fighting for the country's freedom.

Oct 4 **Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** **Italy** St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals was born in 1182 at Assisi. He abandoned his dream of becoming a knight, donned the clothes of a poor farmhand and began caring for the sick. He founded the Franciscan Order, which today has about 33,000 members. He died on 3rd October 1226.

Oct 7 **Durga Puja** **Hindu** This day celebrates the divine creative force of the universe and honours the 10-armed goddess Durga, wife of Shiva, and the destroyer of demons.

Oct 8 **Chung Yeung Festival** **China, Hong Kong, Taiwan** Families visit the graves of their ancestors.

Oct 9 **Dussehra** **Nepal, Hindu** Dussehra means 'the tenth' and celebrates the triumph of Lord Ram over the demon Ravan who stole his wife Sita. The great Hindu epic poem, the Ramayana, is read and enacted, called Ram Lila. A big effigy of Ravan is burnt accompanied by fireworks. In Nepal it is called Dashain and is a major holiday.

Oct 9 **Han-Gul Day** **Korea** This day commemorates the creation of the Korean alphabet of 29 phonetic symbols called han-gul by King Sejong between 1443 and 1446.

Oct 11 **Yom Kippur** **Jewish** Yom Kippur The Day of Atonement is the holiest and most solemn of all days in the Jewish year. They believe that once you atone for your mistakes, you can be 'at one' with God. Jews do not work, and they fast, from sunset to sunset.



Inviting a newcomer to a multicultural Thanksgiving dinner is a beautiful act of kindness that celebrates diversity, friendship, and belonging. A simple hello, a warm smile, or a seat at the table can turn strangers into friends and make everyone feel welcomed and valued.

November 2027

National Indigenous Month USA. Since 1900, many have sought to recognize the great influence American Natives have had on the history, cultural development, and continuing growth of the US. Various dates and weeks were acknowledged until 1976, when Congress authorized a week in October as Native American Awareness Week. Finally, in 1990, the month of November was chosen because it is traditionally a time when many American Natives gather for fall harvest festivals, world-renewal ceremonies, and pow wows.

Oct-Nov Iroquois Harvest Ceremony Indigenous This a day-long ceremony to give thanks to earth spirits for providing now and in the future.

Nov 1 **All Saints' Day Christian** This day is for honouring saints, known and unknown.

Nov 2 **All Souls Day Christian** Catholic Christians day of prayers of intercession for the dead. Prayers of the faithful are seen as helping to cleanse the souls of the departed.

Nov 2 **Birthday Of The Báb Bahá'í** Born Siyyid 'Ali Muhammad in Southwestern Iran in 1819. His title, in Arabic, means 'The Gate'. Work is suspended and Bahá'ís come together for prayer and festivities.

Nov 2 **Dia de los Muertos Mexico** This day is also known as the Day of the Dead, and is celebrated in parts of the United States and Central America. Families build altars in their homes surrounded with flowers, food and burning candles.

Nov 2 **Dia de Finados Portugal** This holiday is celebrated by people visiting the deceased. They bring hearts and crowns made of flowers to the graves.

Nov 3 **Birth Of Bahá'u'lláh Bahá'í** Born Mirza Husayn 'Ali into one of the leading noble families of Persia in 1817. His name is a title, in Arabic, meaning 'The Glory of God'.

Nov 3 **Bunka No Hi Japan** A national holiday dedicated to the love of freedom and promotion of Japanese culture.

Nov 3 **Lokashah Jayanti Jain** This day commemorates the birth of a famous 15th century reformer, Lonka Saha, who opposed temple worship and use of images.

Nov 3 **Take Our Kids to Work Canada** Parents are encouraged to bring their daughters (and/or sons) to work on this day, and to use this opportunity to educate their children on the nature of employment.

Nov 5 **Guy Fawkes Day UK** This is also known as Bonfire Night. Guy Fawkes was a leader of a group of Catholic men who were plotting to blow up the king and Parliament but were arrested in time. The English and Irish burn bonfires topped by a figure known as the guy. West Indians from the Bahamas and Barbados celebrate it as well.



St. John Ambulance therapy dogs spread Christmas joy through their Santa Paws program, bringing warmth and companionship to seniors across Waterloo Region. These heartwarming visits show how kindness, even on four legs, can bring smiles, comfort, and a sense of belonging.

December 2027

Universal Human Rights Month **UN** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UN in 1948 as a response to the Nazi holocaust and to set a standard by which the human rights activities of all nations, rich and poor alike, are to be measured. Some of the Rights are: No one shall be subjected to cruel and inhuman punishment, being entitled to a fair and public hearing by an impartial tribunal, the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and the right to a standard of living to include food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, the right to education, the right to participate in the cultural life of the community, not being arbitrarily deprived of his property, a speedy juried trail and right to legal counsel.

Dec 1 **Rosa Parks Day** **USA** Commemorates the arrest of Rosa Parks, in 1955, for defying segregation by refusing to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. The incident led to the end of segregation.

Dec 5 **Discovery Day** **Haiti** Celebrates the day Christopher Columbus found Haiti on his second voyage to the New World in 1492.

Dec 6 **St. Nicholas Day** **Christian** He is the patron saint of Russia and came from a town in Türkiye. Being known as a protector of children, the tradition of leaving shoes out in the hopes of receiving treats is practiced in the Dutch, German and Eastern European communities.

Dec 7 **Pearl Harbor Day** **USA** This day commemorates the attack of the Imperial Japanese Navy and Air Force on the armed forces of the United States stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, killing two thousand people. This caused the United States to enter into World War II.

Dec 8 **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** **Christian** According to the Catholic religion, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without Original Sin in the womb of her mother, St. Anne.

Dec 8 **Bodhi Day** **Buddhist** In Japanese Zen, Bodhi Day is called “Rohatsu” and is the observance of enlightenment of the historical Buddha. Zen monasteries observe this day with a meditation retreat lasting several days. On the last night of a Rohatsu sesshin, monks and students often sit in meditation until dawn, as the Buddha did 25 centuries ago.

Dec 12 **Our Lady of Guadalupe** **Mexico** An important religious festival in Mexico. It commemorates the appearance of the Blessed Virgin to an Indian boy in 1531. Processions, dances and visits are led to her Mexico City shrine.

Dec 13 **Luciadagen** **Sweden** This day is also known as ‘Queen of Light’. A candlestick parade takes place.

Dec 15 **Navidades** **Mexico, Puerto Rico** Marks the beginning of the Christmas season and ends with Three Kings Day on January 6th.

Dec 16 - 24 **Posadas** **Mexico** A nine-day traditional celebration throughout Mexico. Processions of pilgrims go door to door asking for posada, which means shelter, commemorating the search by Mary and Joseph for shelter.

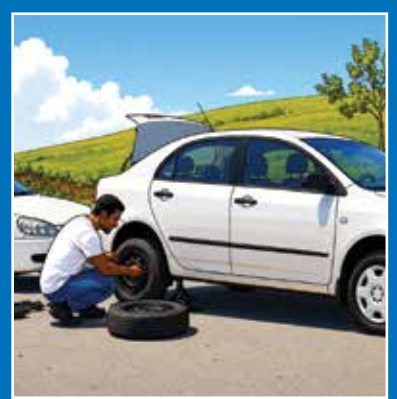
Dec 16 **Day of Reconciliation** **South Africa** annually on December 16, with the next observance falling on Wednesday, December 16, 2026. Established in 1995 after the fall of apartheid, the public holiday promotes national unity, racial harmony, and healing by bringing together cultures that once experienced the day as a symbol of division.

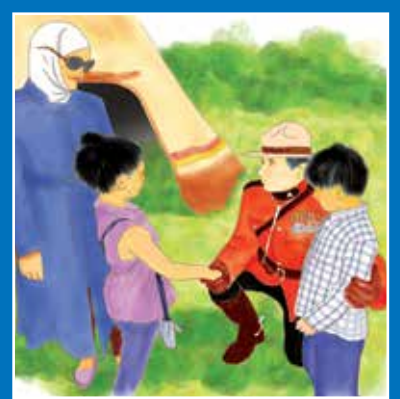
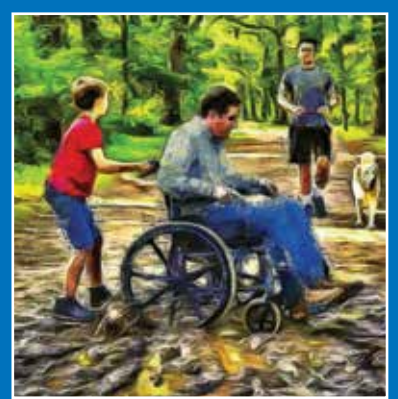
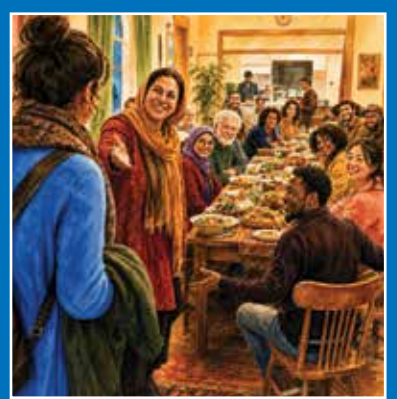











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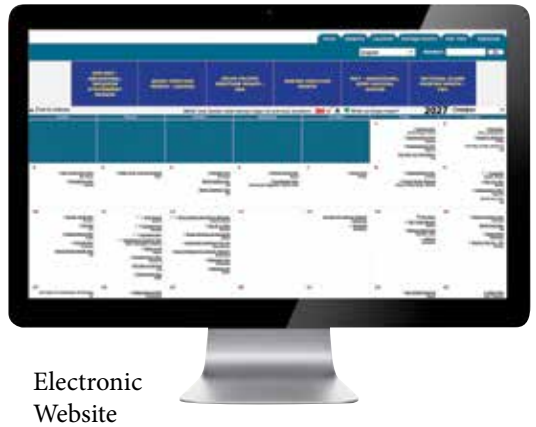
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